

March 25, 2019

To: The House Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Workforce Committee
From: Gina Marie Quinn
Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Marie Quinn and I'm writing you along with Basic Rights Oregon, and I live in Hillsboro.

My mom was sick. We knew she was ready to die, she was ready to let go. We knew this was to be her last hospital stay. She was so very sick with emphysema. Like many mother daughter relationships, ours was a complicated one, but our love for one another was fierce.

I chose to take unpaid leave off so I could be with my mom, that was my choice and I was willing to make the sacrifices that came with that choice. Not to be too detailed, but my mom chose not to eat or drink after a period of time in the hospital. I was off work in excess of a month. I had no income during this time, I had all of my regular bills and on top of it I had the expense of the cost of eating in the hospital and gas for daily transportation.

I've always been savings and budget focused which is how I was able to swing this. I did have some savings at the start, and I did have near perfect credit fortunately with access to credit cards. It nearly wiped me out financially and I did have to use credit cards to pay for things. Also as part of financial recovery for taking this time off I had to do some things that went out of my normally very careful cautious credit behavior. I had to use credit cards to get cash advances to pay for some things at a much higher interest rate. Credit card wise I had to rob from Peter to pay Paul.

I strongly support the FAMILI Equality act. This was my mom, she deserved to have family there in her final scary days and I deserved to be able to be there for my mother! Without savings, access to credit cards and my company at least agreeing to not fire me while I was there to comfort my mom I easily could of become homeless and much deeper in debt. To not be with my mom simply was not a choice.

Sincerely,

Gina Marie Quinn